

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 2, please insert the following paragraph after paragraph [08]:

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of a splice box containing a central tube cable.

Page 3, please amend paragraph [13] as follows:

In contrast, according to the present invention, due to the friction between the buffer tubes and the bundle support member, axial movement of the buffer tubes with respect to the jacket is severely restricted when the ends of the bundle support member 22 are secured to the respective splice boxes 30 (Fig. 3). Therefore, the buffer tubes and fibers will not pull away from the splice closure when the cable is subjected to high loads.